

Appln. Serial No. 09/473,726  
Amendment Dated October 16, 2008  
Reply to Office Action Mailed July 16, 2008

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A communications network arrangement providing voice over IP  
2 or voice over ATM services, the network arrangement comprising: a first media gateway  
3 controller controlling a first gateway and provided with a first operating protocol,[[.]] a second  
4 media gateway controller controlling a second gateway and provided with a second, different  
5 operating protocol, and a gateway address translator incorporating proxies for said first and  
6 second gateways respectively, wherein said gateway address translator provides a relay function  
7 for messaging between each of said first and second media gateway ~~controller~~ controllers and  
8 [[its]] the corresponding gateway one of the first and second gateways, and a virtual bearer  
9 function for messaging between said first and second media gateway controllers.
- 1 2. (Currently Amended) A communications network arrangement as claimed in claim 1,  
2 wherein said gateway address translator comprises gateway proxies, one for each of said gateway  
3 first and second gateways, and virtual gateways, one for each of said first and second media  
4 gateway ~~controller~~ controllers.
- 1 3. (Currently Amended) A communications network arrangement as claimed in claim 2,  
2 wherein communication between said first and second media gateway controllers is provided via  
3 a signalling network.
- 1 4. (Currently Amended) A communications network arrangement as claimed in claim 3,  
2 wherein said signalling network comprises a [[CCS7]] Common Channel Signaling 7 network.
- 1 5. (Original) A communications network arrangement as claimed in claim 2 wherein said  
2 gateway address translator comprises software provided in machine readable form on a storage  
3 medium.

Appln. Serial No. 09/473,726  
Amendment Dated October 16, 2008  
Reply to Office Action Mailed July 16, 2008

1 6. (Currently Amended) A communications network arrangement as claimed in claim 5,  
2 wherein said gateway address translator comprises a software application running on one of said  
3 first and second media gateway controllers.

1 7. (Currently Amended) A communications network arrangement as claimed in claim 1,  
2 wherein at least one of said first and second media gateway ~~controller~~ controllers is constituted  
3 by a distributed [[MGC]] media gateway controller pair providing separate ingress and egress  
4 functions.

1 8. (Currently Amended) A communications network arrangement as claimed in claim 7,  
2 wherein at least one of said first and second media gateway ~~controller~~ controllers is constituted  
3 by a soft switch.

1 9. (Currently Amended) A gateway address translator for use in a communications network  
2 arrangement providing voice over IP or voice over ATM services and comprising: a first media  
3 gateway controller controlling a first gateway and provided with a first operating protocol, [[.]]  
4 and a second media gateway controller controlling a second gateway and provided with a  
5 second, ~~different~~ operating protocol, the gateway address translator comprising: gateway proxies,  
6 one for each said gateway of said first and second gateways, and virtual gateways, one for each  
7 of said first and second media gateway ~~controller~~ controllers, wherein said gateway proxies  
8 provide a relay function for messaging between each of said first and second media gateway  
9 ~~controller~~ controllers and [[its]] the corresponding gateway one of the first and second gateways,  
10 and wherein said virtual gateways provide a virtual bearer function for messaging between said  
11 first and second media gateway controllers.

1 10. (Original) A gateway address translator as claimed in claim 7, and comprising software  
2 provided in machine readable form on a storage medium.

1 11. (Currently Amended) A gateway address translator as claimed in claim 8, and  
2 incorporated in [[a]] one of the first and second media gateway ~~controller~~ controllers.

Appln. Serial No. 09/473,726  
Amendment Dated October 16, 2008  
Reply to Office Action Mailed July 16, 2008

1 12. (Currently Amended) A method of providing voice over IP or voice over ATM services  
2 in a communications network arrangement comprising: a first media gateway controller  
3 controlling a first gateway and provided with a first operating protocol, and a second media  
4 gateway controller controlling a second gateway and provided with a second, different operating  
5 protocol, the method comprising provisioning proxies of said first and second gateways so as to  
6 provide a relay function for messaging between each of said first and second media gateway  
7 controller controllers and [[its]] the corresponding gateway one of the first and second gateways,  
8 said messaging utilising the protocol of utilizing the first protocol between the first media  
9 gateway controller and the first gateway, and utilizing the second protocol between the second  
10 media gateway controller and the second gateway, and to provide a virtual bearer function for  
11 enabling messaging between said first and second media gateway controllers.

1 13. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing media gateway controllers and media  
2 gateways having different operating protocols in a communications network arrangement  
3 providing voice over IP or voice over ATM services, the method comprising:  
4 creating software proxies of said media gateways; and  
5 with which said software proxies communicating with respective ones of said media  
6 gateways communicate each in its respective operating protocol gateway controllers utilizing  
7 respective operating protocols, wherein the media gateway controllers are provisioned with  
8 corresponding addresses of the software proxies rather than corresponding addresses of said  
9 media gateways.

Appln. Serial No. 09/473,726  
Amendment Dated October 16, 2008  
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1 14. (Currently Amended) A communications network arrangement providing voice over IP  
2 or voice over ATM services and incorporating a plurality of media gateways and media gateway  
3 controllers therefor whereby voice calls are set up over virtual channels in the network, wherein  
4 said media gateways and media gateway controllers have different operating protocols, and  
5 wherein communications between said media gateways and media gateway controllers are  
6 relayed via proxies whereby each pair of said media gateway and media gateway controller ~~can~~  
7 ~~send and receive~~ sends and receives communications ~~in its own protocol~~ using a corresponding  
8 one of the different operating protocols, wherein the media gateway controllers are provisioned  
9 with corresponding addresses of the proxies rather than corresponding addresses of the gateways.

1 15. (Currently Amended) Software in machine readable form provided on a storage medium  
2 ~~and adapted~~ to control delivery of voice over IP or voice over ATM services in a  
3 communications network arrangement comprising: a first media gateway controller controlling a  
4 first gateway and provided with a first operating protocol, and a second media gateway controller  
5 controlling a second gateway and provided with a second, different operating protocol, the  
6 software ~~providing~~ comprising:

7 means for provisioning proxies of said first and second gateways so as to provide a relay  
8 function for messaging between each of said first and second media gateway ~~said messaging~~  
9 ~~utilising the protocol of the controller and the gateway controllers and the corresponding one of~~  
10 the first and second gateways utilizing the corresponding one of the first and second protocols,  
11 and

12 means for providing a virtual bearer function for enabling messaging between said first  
13 and second media gateway controllers.

1 16. (New) The communications network arrangement as claimed in claim 1, wherein the  
2 first media gateway controller is provisioned with an address of one of the proxies instead of an  
3 address of the first gateway, and wherein the second media gateway controller is provisioned  
4 with an address of another one of the proxies instead of an address of the second gateway.

Appln. Serial No. 09/473,726  
Amendment Dated October 16, 2008  
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- 1 17. (New) The gateway address translator as claimed in claim 9, wherein a first one of the  
2 gateway proxies communicates with the first media gateway controller using the first operating  
3 protocol, and a second one of the gateway proxies communicates with the second media gateway  
4 controller using the second operating protocol, wherein an address of the first gateway proxy is  
5 provisioned at the first media gateway controller, and an address of the second gateway proxy is  
6 provisioned at the second media gateway controller.